

Pershing Avers Spite Caused Brest Attack

Major Birdsell Threatened to "Get Even" for Court Martial, He Says in Cable Once on "N. Y. Telegram"

Managing Editor Summers Declares Man Accused Was With "N. Y. Herald"

WASHINGTON, March 4.—A cablegram from General Pershing made public today at the War Department charges that a campaign of criticism against the handling of the embarkation camp at Brest, France, grew out of the trial by court martial of Major Alfred W. Birdsell, formerly of "The New York Evening Telegram."

The message said the "violent newspaper attacks" upon the Brest camp were "the time Major Birdsell returned to the United States after having been reprimanded, reduced in grade and fined for striking an enlisted man, added that Major Birdsell threatened before he left that he "would get some one at Brest."

Pershing Sends Cable

General Pershing's message follows:

"Reference P 2154 (a) enabled inquiry from the department), reference criticisms against port of Brest, following information received from intelligence officer at Paris."

"(A) September, 1918, Major Alfred W. Birdsell, formerly of "The New York Evening Telegram" and former publisher of "The Herald," was charged with general court martial of various officers."

"(B) December, 1918, Major Birdsell ordered to Brest in connection with the court martial of certain supposed irregularities."

"(C) January 4, 1919, Major Birdsell said United States after having been reprimanded, reduced in grade and fined."

"(D) February 1, 1919 (about), violent newspaper attacks began."

"The War Department made public today at the War Department record in Major Birdsell's case. He was charged with violation of the 96th article of war, covering conduct unbecoming an officer. There were three specifications charging that in June, 1918, Major Birdsell struck Corporal Harry W. Clarendon of the infantry headquarters company in the face with his hands, and that he had placed a prisoner in confinement, and ordered him placed in irons in violation of army regulations."

Guilty on All Counts

Major Birdsell was found guilty on all specifications and sentenced to be reprimanded, reduced to the foot of the list of majors of the quartermaster corps for the period of one year and fined \$500.

"S. H. Summers, managing editor of "The Evening Telegram," said last night there was no foundation for General Pershing's charge that that paper's campaign against the Brest embarkation camp had been inspired by Major Alfred W. Birdsell. Mr. Summers also said Major Birdsell had never been in "The Evening Telegram" employ, but before joining the army in September, 1917, was head of the stereotyping room of "The Herald."

"I have not seen Major Birdsell for several months, and do not know where he now is," Mr. Summers added, answering a question.

Major Birdsell is said to have come here on a "chicago" and to have been employed by the "Herald" for a short time before he went to "The Herald." It was said last night that he had returned to Chicago.

Cruiser Rochester Here With Troops After 14-Day Trip

370 Officers and Men Have Stormy Passage From Brest; Three Civilians Are Held as Prisoners

The cruiser Rochester, after a stormy passage of fourteen days from Brest, arrived here yesterday with 370 officers and men and went to an anchorage off Weehawken. Because of the congested condition of the port of embarkation at Hoboken she was forced to send the troops ashore in tugs and lighters. Within an hour after she anchored in the North River the soldiers were on their way to Camp Upton.

Aboard were the 127th Aero Squadron, four officers and 133 men; Mobile Hospital 100, and Casual Company 1214, of Texas.

Eleven civilian passengers, three of whom were charged with having violated Section 9 of the seamen's act, were also aboard the Rochester. The three men committed acts which caused the American Consul at Cape Town to the United States for trial.

The steamship Florence Luckenbach from Nantes, brought home four naval officers, who were taken to Hoboken by tug after the vessel went to an anchorage in Gravesend Bay.

Glass Wants "Rainbows"

In Victory Loan Parade

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Secretary Glass today asked Secretary Baker if it would be possible to move forward the date of the return of the 424 (Rainbow) Division from April 26, the scheduled date, to so that the parade during the Victory loan campaign.

47 U-Boats Sold by England as Junk

LONDON, March 4.—The British Admiralty sold the first batch of forty-seven German submarines to be broken up for scrap iron. The price was not divulged.

While opinion here is hardening in favor of either sinking the capital ships surrendered by Germany or scrapping them, a new plan for their disposal was suggested by representatives of Western Australia, who called a proposal that the dreadnoughts, with superfluous fittings removed, be equipped as refrigerator ships for the Australian mutton trade. They requested that this proposition be placed before the imperial government.

69th Objected to British Uniforms, O'Leary Testifies

Near Mutiny in France When New York's Irish Fighters Had to Wear Them, Lawyer Now on Trial Declares

Jeremiah A. O'Leary, on trial before Judge A. N. Hand in the United States District Court charged with violating the espionage act, spent all day yesterday on the witness stand denying the charges the government has made against him, explaining his speeches and writings, denying that he hated England and commenting on the worth of books written by famous Englishmen.

He reiterated again and again that he was not in favor of revolution, that he was not a socialist, but that he was a "Jeffersonian Democrat." All his acts, he said, had been inspired by Americanism.

Concerning his first meeting with Madame Marie de Victorin, O'Leary said she had been sent to him by a Mr. Kipper, with whom he had had business dealings for some years. She came to him on December 1, 1917, he said. She wanted a divorce and said her husband became insane a short time after they were married.

O'Leary denied ever meeting her in company with a client, then as an advertising solicitor for Bull Publishing Company. He was dismissed, O'Leary said, and he helped him get work in the company.

Discussing the membership of the 69th Infantry, now the 165th, which he testified he helped build up, O'Leary said that any man who joined the company did so of his own free will and that he was not in charge of the life in his hands. He testified that feeling among the men of the 69th was so intense against England that there should not be escape punishment, "however inadequate," the sentence was approved.

Explaining his meetings with J. Ward Robinson he said he first met Robinson at a client, then as an advertising solicitor for Bull Publishing Company. He was dismissed, O'Leary said, and he helped him get work in the company.

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Wets Ask Fund Of \$500,000 In State Fight

Head of Hotel Belmont Corporation Urges All Dealers to Give \$10,000

Says the Tide Is Stemmed

James Woods, vice-president of the E. L. Bates corporation, controlling the Hotel Belmont, and chairman of a joint conference committee of the hotel men, in a letter to the liquor men, says that "the New York State Legislature has changed its attitude. The pendulum is swinging back; the tide is being stemmed."

He asks for contributions to a fund of at least \$500,000 to fight prohibition, and suggests \$10,000 as a reasonable amount if the recipient of the letter would rather pay \$10,000 than see his business closed up after July 1.

On a letterhead of the Association Opposed to National Prohibition Mr. Woods appeals to the liquor men as follows:

"Eleven hundred men responded to the call of the joint conference committee to the meeting in the Hotel Commodore Friday (February 28), and they departed thoroughly convinced that there is a splendid fighting chance to save the Constitution of the United States from its fanatical and hypocritical violators and to save our business from ruin, destruction and confiscation."

"Many of our boys gave their lives to save the world for democracy. Will you now to save the country from hypocrisy? In checking off the list of those who turned in their pledges of financial support to this urgent, imperative and timely movement, which the serious and patriotic will cost half a million dollars, our committee fails to find your subscription."

"Three million pieces of literature have already been distributed. Results are visible. But we require \$10,000 to close up your business on July 1, 1919. Now, if you will subscribe \$10,000 to keep your business and ours going after July 1."

"Will you join with many others by subscribing 1 per cent of your gross business for 1918 with our hotels and restaurants? The serious and patriotic will cost half a million dollars, our committee fails to find your subscription."

"If more convenient to you, make two or three million pieces of literature have already been distributed. Results are visible. But we require \$10,000 to close up your business on July 1, 1919. Now, if you will subscribe \$10,000 to keep your business and ours going after July 1."

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Senators Demand Quick Demobilization

Vote Shows They Favor Discharge of Troops in United States in Thirty Days

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Demobilization of all soldiers in the United States except the regular army within thirty days was virtually demanded by the Senate today just before the final adjournment by a vote of 48 to 37.

The temper of the Senate on this matter was illustrated by debate on an amendment which would have made the length of time in which the soldiers can be demobilized sixty days instead of thirty. It was laid on the table by a bare majority.

During the brief discussion which the time permitted the Vice-President declared the Senate adjourned just after the announcement of the vote—virtually everyone who spoke agreed that the demobilization troops were not turning swiftly enough.

Incidentally, the amendment offered to a House Resolution providing for some additional clerks, which was being considered by unanimous consent as a matter of courtesy to the House, was brought exclusively to Democratic proposition.

Fearing it would kill the House resolution, Senator Underwood made a point of order against it, but the Vice-President overruled this.

A posthumous award was made to Patrolman William Barrett, who died in an attempt to stop a runaway horse at the Williamsburg bridge on August 23, 1918. His name will be placed on the memorial tablet at Police Headquarters.

A pistol fight with five robbers placed Detective Bertram Maskell among the heroes of the day. He was shot in the morning of September 7, 1918. Maskell was told that the robbers were holding up the members of the Williamsburg bridge. As he entered the highway two of the hold-up men, who were descending the stairs, opened fire upon him. He drew his revolver, shot the lead robber, and wounded another. The rest turned and fled.

Runaway horses afforded the opportunity which placed on the honor roll of the day. Michael Hickey, a New York City fireman, was shot in the thigh by a horse. He was carried to the hospital, where he died. His name will be placed on the memorial tablet at Police Headquarters.

Orders to "speed up" the work of finding jobs for men of the 27th Division who will arrive home without definite prospects of employment were issued yesterday by Dr. George W. Kirkley, Federal director of the United States Employment Service, 460 Fifth Avenue.

"Not a single New York man must be allowed to go a day without a job," he said to various officials of the employment service.

Plans to carry the order into effect were decided upon at a conference between E. E. Wood, assistant director, and John P. O'Leary, chief of the military intelligence officer of the 10th Infantry, who has been assigned by Lieutenant Colonel J. Leslie Kincaid to the New York City employment service. Lieutenant O'Leary will meet the transport Levantine today to communicate the plans to Colonel Raymond, chief of staff to Major General O'Leary.

Dr. Kirkley had called General O'Leary to have the men's applications for jobs taken en route home, but no records have been made. The records have not been made but will be compiled while the men are going through the sanitation process in camp.

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47 Police Heroes Honor Roll for Valorous Conduct

Eight Given "Honorable Mention"—Posthumous Award to W. Barrett Who Died Stopping Runaway

Forty-seven heroes of the Police Department, who were distinguished by meritorious conduct in the line of duty, are on the honor roll announced yesterday. Eight of them, who showed extraordinary personal heroism, received "honorable mention," which entitles each to wear a silver star on his sleeve. The others receive "commendation," which means that they may wear a bronze star.

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We have helped the government. Will we help ourselves?

In each letter was printed a "partial list of contributions," as follows: